

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 1 is allowable and for indicating that claim 5 contains allowable subject matter.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-6 were pending in this application. By way of this reply, claim 5 has been canceled. Thus, claims 1-4, and 6 are now pending in this application. Claims 1 and 2 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, upon claim 2.

Claim Amendments

Independent claim 2 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 5, which were indicated as allowable subject matter, and accordingly, claim 5 has been canceled. No new subject matter has been added by way of the amendments.

Objection(s)

Claims 5 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As discussed above, the base claim 2 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 5, and accordingly, claim 5 has been canceled. Therefore, this objection is now moot.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 2 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,398,808 (“Chen”). As discussed above, by way of this reply, claim 2 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 5, which were indicated as allowable subject matter. Thus, amended claim 2 is now patentable over Chen. Claim 6 depends on claim 2 and is also now allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 103

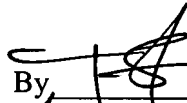
Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Chen in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,838,632 (“Miyake”). As discussed above, amended claim 2 is patentable over Chen. Claims 3 and 4 each directly depend on claim 2 and are now allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04995/142001).

Dated: June 29, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By  #45,079
Jonathan P. Osha THOMAS SCHAFER
Registration No.: 33,986
OSHA · LIANG LLP
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800
Houston, Texas 77010
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant